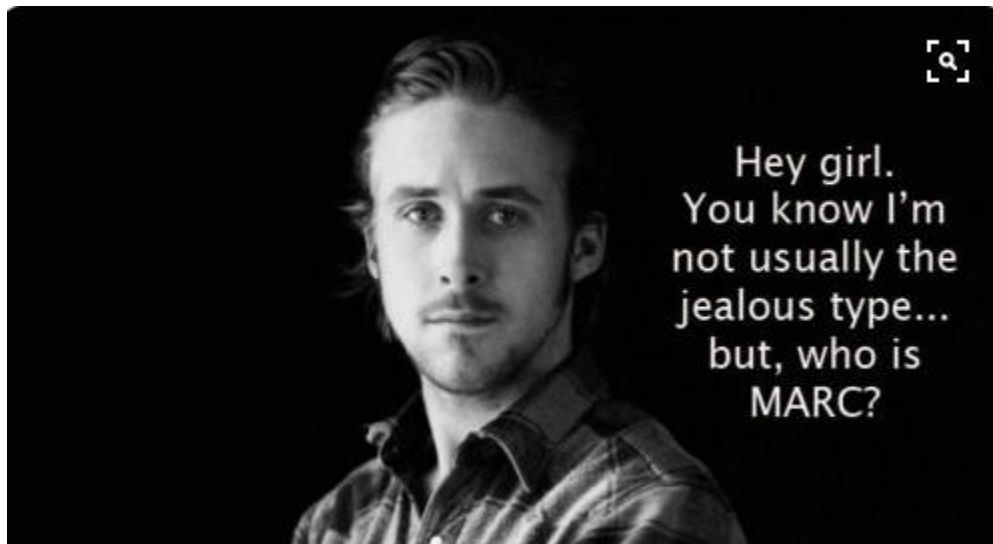**Understanding MARC Bibliographic Records**
Introduction and Overview
Spring 2016
Week 1

What is MARC?

MARC stands for **MA**chine **R**eadable **C**ataloging, and it is an encoding standard that provides a framework for library catalog records. That is, it shows librarians how to encode information so that it can be read by a computer, which translates it into a format that people can read. Since it standardizes how information is entered into a record, MARC makes it possible to exchange records between systems. For example, when you download a record from OCLC or receive a record from a vendor, you can upload the record into your local catalog because of MARC formatting.

Before we go too much further, I want to review MARC and RDA. They both influence bibliographic records, and some people make the mistake of using them interchangeably. However, they are very different.

MARC and RDA

Unlike MARC, RDA, or **Resource Description & Access**, consists of a set of guidelines that tells us what information to put into a bibliographic record, where to find this information and how to format this information. These rules cover topics such as required information and how to create headings for personal and corporate names. In 2013, RDA replaced the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, Second Edition, or AACR2.

MARC, as previously stated, is the encoding standard that is wrapped around the information that we have created following RDA. When we talk about things like a 245 tag, we are referring to MARC encoding, rather than RDA.

MARC and RDA are intertwined. In this class, we will focus on MARC, but it will be necessary to talk about RDA when we are talking about the contents of each MARC field.

History of MARC

MARC formatting has been around since the 1960s. It was developed by Henriette Avram, who worked at the Library of Congress. Originally, the Library of Congress did not intend to use it for online record displays. Rather, it was used to

automate the process of printing the catalog cards that the Library of Congress distributed to other libraries. Since then, it has become a way of distributing records electronically.

MARC has gone through several different forms and had different names to go along with those forms. When it was first created, it was called LC MARC. It was called US MARC in the 1980s, and it became MARC 21 in 2000.

MARC standards are provided for a variety of types of data. In this class, we will be talking about bibliographic data, but there are also MARC standards for authority data, community information, holdings data, and classification data.

Automated Systems

In daily library work, we encounter MARC records in our automated systems, the various pieces of software that allow us to manipulate and display these records. You are likely to encounter MARC records in union catalogs or databases (like OCLC's Connexion and WorldCat), your local automated system (whether it is in the behind-the-scenes cataloging module or the public Web catalog), and in MARC editors (like MARCEdit). As such, you may see the information presented in MARC records in a variety of formats. While the information is the same, the display differs according to your library's ILS, whether you're looking at the public web catalog, or the behind-the-scenes cataloging module. The following are examples of several MARC records in various displays.

```
00922nam  2200217Ia 45
00010013000000030006000130050017000190080041000360400013000770200022
00090043001200112049000090012410000200013324500770015326000650023030
00021002955200299003166000036006156510041006519940012006692ocm55654318
OCoLC20050909094919.0040615r20042003cau         000 1 eng d  aMPIcMPI
a1932407391 (pbk.)  an-us-ny  aTPBB1 aKaplow, Robert.14aThe cat who killed Lilian
Jackson Braun :ba parody /cby Robert Kaplow.  aBeverly Hills, Calif. :bNew
Millennium Press,c2004, c2003.  a213 p. ;c18 cm.  aIn this bawdy parody, Ms.
Jackson's headless body has been discovered in a men's room of a bar in Lower
Manhattan. The police are busy filming reality television shows, so it falls to Braun's
writer friend James Qafka and his Siamese cats, Ying-Tong and Poon-Tang, to solve
the ghastly mystery.10aBraun, Lilian JacksonvFiction. 0aManhattan (New York,
N.Y.)vFiction.  aC0bTPB
```

A MARC record as a computer sees it.

Books	▾	Rec stat	n	Entered	20160208			Replaced	20160208123523.6	

Type	a	ELvl	I	Srce	d	Audn		Ctrl		Lang	eng
BLvl	m	Form		Conf	0	Biog		MRec		Ctry	nbu
		Cont		GPub		LitF	0	Indx	0		
Desc	a	Ills	a	Fest	0	DtSt	s	Dates	2015	,	

040			NBL ǂc NBL
020			1561610453
020			9781561610457
043			n-us-nb
086			U2375 H001 .0023 -2015 ǂ2 nbdocs
090			ǂb
049			NBLS
100	1		Diffendal, R. F. ǂq (Robert Francis), ǂe author.
245	1	0	Fossils on the floor in the Nebraska State Capitol : ǂb a coloring and activities book / ǂc by R.F. Diffendal, Jr.
264		1	Lincoln, NE : ǂb University of Nebraska-Lincoln, School of Natural Resources, Conservation and Survey Division ǂc 2015
300			ii, 58 pages : ǂb illustrations ; ǂc 28 cm
336			text ǂb txt ǂ2 rdacontent
337			unmediated ǂb n ǂ2 rdamedia
338			volume ǂb nc ǂ2 rdacarrier
490	1		Educational circular ; ǂv no. 23
599			b ǂb s ǂc NE Docs ǂi 151028
610	2	0	Nebraska State Capitol (Lincoln, Neb.)
650		0	Mosaic floors ǂx Design.
650		0	Fossils in art ǂx Design.
650		0	Coloring books.
710	2		University of Nebraska--Lincoln. ǂb Conservation and Survey Division, ǂe publisher.
830		0	Educational circular (University of Nebraska--Lincoln. Conservation and Survey Division) ; ǂv 23.
852	7	1	NLC ǂc NE Docs ǂh U2375 H001 .0023 -2015 ǂ2 nbdocs ǂp 31420001178170 ǂt 1

As it appears in OCLC Connexion.

001			0000062726
005			20130925135513.0
008			130311s2013 nbu b 000 0beng
010		a	2013009237
019		a	839395920
020		a	9780803237872 (cloth : alk. paper) :
		c	29.95
020		a	0803237871 (cloth : alk. paper)
035		a	(OCoLC)ocn830668890
040		a	DLC
		b	eng
		e	rda
		c	DLC
		d	OCLCO
		d	OCLCQ
		d	BTCTA
		d	YDXCP
		d	NBL
042		a	c=Program for Cooperative Cataloging
043		a	n-us-wa
050	0 ▾	0 ▾	a	E99.S21
		b	D43 2013
082	0 ▾	0 ▾	a	979.7004/97940092
		a	B
		2	23
086	▾		a	U5002 T515 -2013
		2	nbdocs
100	1 ▾		a	De Danaan, Llyn.
		@	0000102601
245	1 ▾	0 ▾	a	Katie Gale :
		b	a Coast Salish woman's life on Oyster bay /
		c	LLyn De Danaan.
260	▾		a	Lincoln :
		b	University of Nebraska Press,
		c	2013.
300		a	[xii], 304 pages, [12] pages of plates ;
		c	24 cm.
336		a	text
		b	txt
		2	rdacontent

As it appears in the Mandarin cataloging module.

Nebraska Library Commission Catalog

RESULTS DISPLAY ∨ | **PRINT**

Copies/Availability

Location	Call Number	Barcode	Status	Due Date	
NLC	U5002 T515 -2013	31420001071763	Available		**Request Loan**

Item Details

Call #:	U5002 T515 -2013
Author:	De Danaan, Llyn.
Title:	Katie Gale : a Coast Salish woman's life on Oyster bay /
Publishing Info.:	Lincoln : University of Nebraska Press, 2013.
Description:	[xii], 304 pages, [12] pages of plates ; 24 cm.
Content Type:	text
Media Type:	unmediated
Carrier Type:	volume
Subject:	Gale, Katie.
	Coast Salish Indians -- Washington (State) -- Biography.
	Indian women -- Washington (State) -- Biography.
	Coast Salish Indians -- Social life and customs.
Note:	Includes bibliographical references (pages 291-304).

First
Previous
Next
Last

Back To Record List   ☐ SHELF BROWSE

As it appears in Mandarin's online search display.
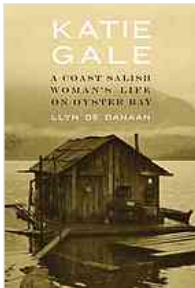
Katie Gale : a Coast Salish woman's life on Oyster bay

Author:	Llyn De Danaan
Publisher:	Lincoln : University of Nebraska Press, 2013.
Edition/Format:	eBook : Document : Biography : English View all editions and formats
Database:	WorldCat
Summary:	Katie Gale's story is also one of remarkable pluck, a tale of hard work and ingenuity, gritty initiative and bad luck that is, ultimately, essentially American.
Rating:	☆☆☆☆☆ (not yet rated) 0 with reviews - Be the first.
Subjects	Gale, Katie. Coast Salish Indians -- Washington (State) -- Biography. Indian women -- Washington (State) -- Biography. View all subjects
More like this	Similar Items

Details

Genre/Form:	Electronic books Biography
Additional Physical Format:	Print version: De Danaan, Llyn. Katie Gale. Lincoln : University of Nebraska Press, 2013 (DLC) 2013009237 (OCoLC)830668890
Named Person:	Katie Gale
Material Type:	Biography, Document, Internet resource
Document Type:	Internet Resource, Computer File
All Authors / Contributors:	Llyn De Danaan
	Find more information about: Llyn De Danaan Go
ISBN:	9781461937197 1461937191
OCLC Number:	855534421
Description:	1 online resource.
Responsibility:	LLyn De Danaan.

As it appears in OCLC WorldCat.

Detail ✕

Title: Pride and prejudice and zombies the classic Regency romance -- now with ultraviolent zombie mayhem!
Author: Grahame-Smith, Seth.
ISBN: 9781441816764
Edition: Compact disc unabridged
Publication Information: [Place of publication not identified] : Brilliance Audio, cp2009.
Physical Description: 9 audio discs (11 hours, 4 min.) : digital ; 4 3/4 in.
General Note:
Unabridged.
Summary: A mysterious plague has fallen upon the quiet English village of Meryton--and the dead are returning to life! Feisty heroine Elizabeth Bennet is determined to wipe out the zombie menace, but she's soon distracted by the arrival of the haughty and arrogant Mr. Darcy.
Subject Term:
Zombies -- Fiction.
Parodies.
Added Author:
Austen, Jane, 1775-1817.
Kellgren, Katherine.
Holds: 0
Copies: 2

Select an Action ▼

👍 0
f Like

Text This To Me
Place Hold
Add Author Alert

As it appears in the Lincoln City Library's SirsiDynix Enterprise display.

4.

Title Pride and prejudice and zombies [sound recording (CD)]
Author Grahame-Smith, Seth.
Publication Date(s) 2009
Format Audio disc

Place Hold
Text This To Me
Staff View (marc)

f Like

Library	Call Number	Material Type	Notes	Current Location
Eureka Public Library	AUD F AUS	CDs		Audio Recordings

View 1 more copies...
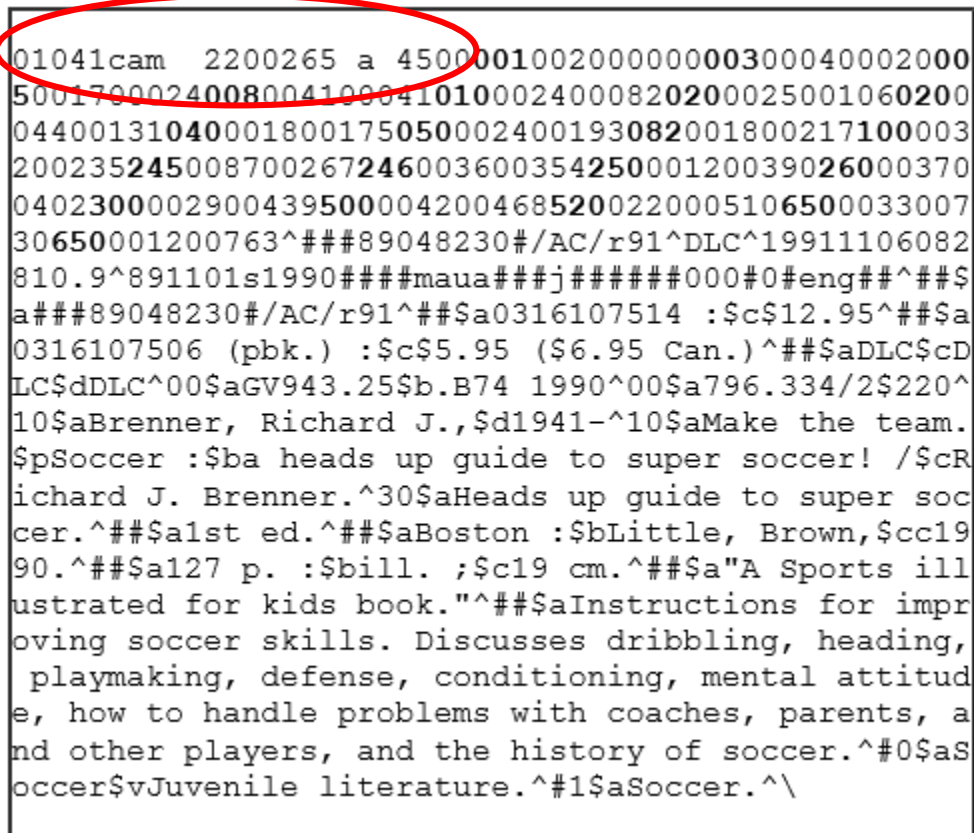
As it appears in the Missoula Public Library's SirsiDynix Enterprise display.

You can see that libraries display the same information in different ways. Not all libraries display the same information. Some choose to show their patrons very little of the MARC record, while others go into detail.

Parts of a MARC Record

We have talked about what MARC records do and why they are important; now we are going look at what a MARC record is. In other words, the parts of a MARC record. Each MARC record can be divided into three parts: **record structure**, **data content**, and **content designation**. We are mainly going to focus on content designation, but I'll briefly cover the other two parts.

Record structure includes the **leader**, which tells the computer how to process a record. The leader is represented by the first twenty-four characters (in the red circle). It also includes the **record directory**, which tells the computer what data is represented in the record (it is sort of a shorthand version of the record). The record directory follows the leader. Unless you are looking at a MARC record as a computer sees it, you do not see the leader or the directory.

```
01041cam  2200265 a 4500010020000000003000400020000
50017000240080041000041010002400082020002500106020
04400131040001800175050002400193082001800217100003
200235245008700267246003600354250001200390260000370
04023000029004395000042004685200220005106500033007
30650001200763^###89048230#/AC/r91^DLC^19911106082
810.9^891101s1990####maua###j######000#0#eng##^##$
a###89048230#/AC/r91^##$a0316107514 :$c$12.95^##$a
0316107506 (pbk.) :$c$5.95 ($6.95 Can.)^##$aDLC$cD
LC$dDLC^00$aGV943.25$b.B74 1990^00$a796.334/2$220^
10$aBrenner, Richard J.,$d1941-^10$aMake the team.
$pSoccer :$ba heads up guide to super soccer! /$cR
ichard J. Brenner.^30$aHeads up guide to super soc
cer.^##$a1st ed.^##$aBoston :$bLittle, Brown,$cc19
90.^##$a127 p. :$bill. ;$c19 cm.^##$a"A Sports ill
ustrated for kids book."^##$aInstructions for impr
oving soccer skills. Discusses dribbling, heading,
 playmaking, defense, conditioning, mental attitud
e, how to handle problems with coaches, parents, a
nd other players, and the history of soccer.^#0$aS
occer$vJuvenile literature.^#1$aSoccer.^\
```

The rest of the record is composed of the **content designation** or the actual fields. These fields instruct the computer on how to interpret the data content. Data content is the information (title, publication information and so on) that you enter into the fields.

TAG   **FIELD**

090			‡b
049			NBLS
100	1		Diffendal, R. F. ‡q (Robert Francis) ‡e author.
245	1	0	Fossils on the floor in the Nebraska State Capitol : ‡b a coloring and activities book / ‡c by R.F. Diffendal, Jr.
264		1	Lincoln, NE : ‡b University of Nebraska-Lincoln, School of Natural Resources, Conservation and Survey Division ‡c 2015
300			ii, 58 pages : ‡b illustrations ; ‡c 28 cm
336			text ‡b txt ‡2 rdacontent
336			still image ‡b sti ‡2 rdacontent
337			unmediated ‡b n ‡2 rdamedia
338			volume ‡b nc ‡2 rdacarrier
490	1		Educational circular ; ‡v no. 23
599			b ‡b s ‡c NE Docs ‡i 151028
610	2	0	Nebraska State Capitol (Lincoln, Neb.)
650		0	Mosaic floors ‡x Design.
650		0	Fossils in art ‡x Design.
650		0	Coloring books.
710	2		University of Nebraska--Lincoln. ‡b Conservation and Survey Division ‡e publisher.

INDICATORS   **SUBFIELD**   **SUBFIELD CODE**

Tags are three-digit codes that tell the computer what type of field it is.

Fields are areas in the record that always contains the same type of information. There are two types of fields: **variable** and **fixed-length**. As you can tell, variable fields do not limit the amount of data that can be entered while fixed-length fields limit field information to a specific number of characters. Since there are no limits to number of characters, you will use variable fields for cataloging.

Indicators are digits or blanks that give the computer instructions about the data contained in the field. Their meanings vary based on which field they are used for.

Subfields are distinct pieces data within the field. In this case, the 245 field contains three subfields. A subfield a for the title proper; subfield b is the remainder of title, and subfield c is for the statement of responsibility.

Subfield codes tell the computer what specific information is included in a particular subfield. The character preceding the subfield code is a delimiter. They indicate where a new subfield, or smaller piece of information, begins. A number of different symbols can be used for delimiters, including $, #, _, and ‡. In this class, we will use the dollar sign ($).

The handout on MARC tags lists the indicators and what they are used for, as well as the subfields. You will notice NR next to some fields and subfields – this means that field or subfield is non-repeatable. The R means a field or subfield is repeatable.

The tags are grouped by hundreds, according to what type of fields they are.

- 0XX   Control info., classification, codes, etc.
- 1XX   Main entries
- 2XX   Titles, edition, imprint
- 3XX   Physical description, etc.
- 4XX   Series statements
- 5XX   Notes
- 6XX   Subject access fields
- 7XX   Added entries
- 8XX   Series added entries, holdings, location, etc.
- 9XX   Locally-defined uses

Another important concept to understand when thinking about MARC tags is a concept called parallel content. Fields with parallel content are fields for which the last two digits are used consistently across fields to represent the same type of data. For example, a 100, 600, or 700 field is always a personal name.

- X00   Personal names
- X10   Corporate names
- X11   Meeting names
- X30   Uniform titles
- X40   Bibliographic titles

Subject heading fields also use the concept of parallel content, as follows:

- X50   Topical terms
- X51   Geographic terms

Parts of a MARC Record: Fixed Fields

As previously mentioned, MARC records also have fixed fields. Again, these are fields that are fixed in length. Their data comes from a list of fixed values.

There are some system-generated fixed fields, which means that you do not input information into these fields.

The 001 field is the record's control number. It is generated by OCLC, LC, or your local system, wherever the record is created. The 003 field contains the MARC code for organization that created the record. Finally, the 005 field notes the date and time that the record was last edited.

The Leader

Earlier I talked about the leader. It is also partially supplied by the system. Each leader consists of 24 characters and can be found at the beginning of the record. It tells the computer how to process a record. One part that a cataloger can control, is the **type of record**. Type of record is just that – what type of item you are cataloging. For more information, you can visit the OCLC page on Type of Record.

Some commonly used codes for type of record are:

- a: Language material [Text]
- e: Cartographic material
- g: Projected medium
- j: Musical sound recording
- p: Mixed materials

Another important component is the **bibliographic level field or BLvl**. This tells the computer more about the type of item you are cataloging. Some of this field's codes are:

- i: Integrating resource
- m: Monograph/Item
- s: Serial

If you would like to see additional bibliographic level codes, visit the OCLC page on BLvl.

008 Field

The first fixed field that the cataloger has complete control over is the 008 field, which is defined as a field for coded general information. It can also be referred to as the fixed field.

The 008 field can appear as a string of characters that is really hard to make sense of, like this:

008   050614s2005   ilua   b   001 0 eng 4

In OCLC Connexion, however, it is broken down into individual fields that make more sense.

How your local system displays the 008 will vary. For example, the Commission's displays the 008 in a string of characters but also allows for it to be expanded into individual fields.

The 008 field is important because it can determine how things display in your catalog. For example, the large type icons and the audio book icons in this display are linked to the 008 field.